

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-49 (Cancelled).

50. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence coding for a polypeptide of which the amino acid sequence comprises the 17 amino acid sequence which is underlined in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and has at least 95% amino acid sequence identity with the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO. 2), wherein expression of said nucleic acid in a plant results in inhibition of growth of the plant, the inhibition being wholly or partially reversed by gibberellin (GA).

51. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence coding for a polypeptide which comprises the 17 amino acid sequence that is underlined in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:2) and which includes an amino acid sequence which has at least 95% identity with the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein expression of said nucleic acid complements a *GAI* null mutant phenotype in a plant, such phenotype being resistance to the dwarfing effect of paclobutrazol.

52-54 (Cancelled).

55. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 50 or 51 wherein said plant is *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

56. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid according to claim 50 or 51 further comprising a regulatory sequence for expression.

57. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid according to claim 56 wherein the regulatory sequence comprises an inducible promoter.

58. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid vector suitable for transformation of a plant cell and comprising the nucleic acid according to claim 50 or 51.

59. (Previously Presented) A host cell containing the nucleic acid according to claim 50 or 51, wherein said cell is a plant cell or a bacterial cell and wherein said nucleic acid is heterologous to said cell.

60. (Cancelled).

61. (Previously Presented) A plant cell according to claim 59 having said heterologous nucleic acid within its genome.

62. (Previously Presented) The plant cell according to claim 61 which is comprised in a plant, a plant part or a plant propagule.

63. (Previously Presented) A method of producing the cell according to claim 59, the method comprising incorporating said nucleic acid into the cell by means of transformation.

64. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 63, wherein said nucleic acid is stably incorporated into the genome of said cell.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64 further comprising regenerating a plant from one or more transformed cells.

66. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 65 further comprising ~~asexually~~ sexually or asexually propagating or growing off-spring or a descendant of the plant regenerated from said plant cell, wherein said off-spring or said descendant comprises said nucleic acid.

67. (Previously Presented) A plant comprising the plant cell according to claim 61.

68. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a plant, the method comprising incorporating the nucleic acid according to claim 50 or 51 into a plant cell and regenerating a plant from said plant cell.

69. (Previously Presented) A method of repressing the growth of a plant, the method comprising introducing the nucleic acid according to claim 50 or 51 into cells of the plant and expressing said nucleic acid, wherein expression of said nucleic acid represses plant growth.

70. (Previously Presented) A method of delaying the flowering time of a plant, the method comprising introducing the nucleic acid according to claim 50 or 51 into cells of the plant and expressing said nucleic acid, wherein expression of said nucleic acid delays flowering time.